

CLAIMS:

1. A method of monitoring frequency availability for a telecommunications network includes: establishing details of frequency spectrum usage in a database, said details to include one or more of time of use, frequency and geographic area of use; and providing query means for the database, to allow the contents of the database to be queried.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the details of the spectrum usage additionally include one or more of ownership details of a particular part of the spectrum, licence-holder details of a particular part of the spectrum, planning rules relating to a particular part of the spectrum, a price or prices relating to a particular part of the spectrum.
3. A method as claimed in claim 2, in which said particular part of the spectrum is a part by frequency, a part by geographic area and/or a part by time of use.
4. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the database is a relational database.
5. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the database is updated by means of a website interface.
6. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the query means comprises a user interface, which is operable to allow a user to enter search terms relating to frequency availability.

7. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the query means is operable to return details of spectrum availability based on the search terms entered.

5 8. A method as claimed in claim 1, which extends to include a method of re-utilising frequency availability.

9. A method as claimed in claim 8, in which the frequency availability is resold.

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10. A method as claimed in either claim 8, in which the database is run and availability resold by a party independent to one or more frequency owners/licence holders.

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11. A method as claimed in claim 1, which extends to a method of enforcing spectrum usage, whereby the use of resold frequency availability is monitored.

20 12. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the details of spectrum usage are entered as details of frequency in use or as details of frequency not in use.

13. A system for monitoring frequency availability
25 comprises a database containing details of frequency spectrum usage, including at least one of time of use, frequency and geographic area of use; and
database query means, operable to allow details of
frequency spectrum usage to be entered and operable to
30 return frequency availability for said entered details of
frequency spectrum usage.

14. A system as claimed in claim 13, which also comprises available spectrum purchasing means.

15. A system as claimed in claim 13, which also comprises
5 frequency usage monitoring means.

16. A computer program operable to perform the method of claim 1.

10 17. A method of monitoring frequency availability for a telecommunications network includes: establishing details of frequency spectrum usage in a database, said details to include one or more of time of use, frequency and geographic area of use; and providing query means for the
15 database, to allow the contents of the database to be queried, in which the details of the spectrum usage additionally include one or more of ownership details of a particular part of the spectrum, licence-holder details of a particular part of the spectrum, planning rules relating
20 to a particular part of the spectrum, a price or prices relating to a particular part of the spectrum, and in which said particular part of the spectrum is a part by frequency, a part by geographic area and/or a part by time of use.

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18. A method of providing information concerning frequency availability for a telecommunications network comprises consulting a database of frequency spectrum usage in response to an enquiry from an enquirer and advising the
30 enquirer of frequency availability relating to the enquiry.

19. A method as claimed in claim 18, in which the database consulted is the database referred to in claim 1.

20. A method of constructing a database of frequency
5 availability for a telecommunications network comprises obtaining information of frequency spectrum usage, said information including one or more of time of use, frequency and geographic area of use; and entering said information into a database.

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21. A method of brokering frequency availability for a telecommunications network comprises providing information concerning frequency availability on a telecommunications network to a potential purchaser; agreeing a price for the
15 sale/licensing of the frequency availability; and selling/licensing said frequency availability.

22. A method as claimed in claim 21, in which the information concerning frequency availability is obtained
20 from a database as described in claim 1.